

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1915

Introduced by Assembly Members Nazarian and Achadjian
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Ian Calderon, Fox,
Hall, Nestande, and Wilk)
(Coauthors: Senators Vidak and Yee)

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Sections 51220 and 51226.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1915, as introduced, Nazarian. Pupil instruction: social sciences: Armenian Genocide.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social sciences. Existing law requires the instruction in social studies to provide instruction in, among other things, human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.

This bill would require the instruction in human rights issues to also include particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of the Armenian Genocide. To the extent this bill would increase the level of service required to be provided by school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to incorporate materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science and other requirements.

This bill would also require the incorporation of materials related to the Armenian Genocide into those publications, and would make other related changes and nonsubstantive changes.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
4 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:
5 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
6 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
7 listening, and speaking.
8 (b) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
9 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
10 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
11 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
12 the history, resources, development, and government of California
13 and the United States of America; instruction in our American
14 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice
15 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal
16 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the
17 development of the American economic system, including the role
18 of the entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their
19 human and natural environment; eastern and western cultures and
20 civilizations; human rights issues, with particular attention to the
21 study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, *the Armenian*
22 *Genocide*, and the Holocaust, and contemporary issues.
23 (c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than
24 grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,
25 reading, and writing the particular language.

1 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities
2 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as
3 required by Section 51222.

4 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with
5 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific
6 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,
7 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and
8 interdependence of the sciences.

9 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop
10 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into
11 problem-solving procedures.

12 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,
13 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic
14 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

15 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer
16 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business
17 education, or general agriculture.

18 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the
19 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the
20 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the
21 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant
22 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

23 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a
24 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws
25 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper
26 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation
27 of the causes, ~~seriousness~~ *seriousness*, and consequences of traffic
28 accidents, and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary
29 for the safe operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile
30 driver education shall include education in the safe operation of
31 motorcycles.

32 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

33 SEC. 2. Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended to
34 read:

35 51226.3. (a) ~~The State Department of Education shall~~
36 ~~incorporate,~~ *department shall incorporate* into publications that
37 provide examples of curriculum resources for teacher-use, *use*
38 those materials developed by publishers of nonfiction, trade books,
39 and primary sources, or other public or private organizations, that
40 are age-appropriate and consistent with the subject frameworks

1 on history and social science that deal with civil rights, human
2 rights violations, genocide, slavery, *the Armenian Genocide*, and
3 the Holocaust.

4 (b) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,
5 rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human
6 rights, genocide, *the Armenian Genocide*, and the Holocaust.

7 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
8 development activities to provide teachers with content background
9 and resources to assist in teaching about civil rights, human rights
10 violations, genocide, slavery, *the Armenian Genocide*, and the
11 Holocaust.

12 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
13 development activities to provide teachers with content background
14 and resources to assist in teaching about the Great Irish Famine of
15 1845–50.

16 (e) The Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 shall be considered in
17 the next cycle in which the ~~history/social~~ *history-social* science
18 curriculum framework and its accompanying instructional materials
19 are adopted.

20 (f) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide
21 adopted by the ~~State Board of Education~~, *state board*, pursuant to
22 Section 51226, shall be made available to schools in grades 7 to
23 12, inclusive, as soon as funding is available for this purpose. In
24 addition, the ~~State Department of Education~~ *department* shall make
25 the curriculum available on its *Internet* Web site.

26 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
27 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
28 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
29 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
30 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.